

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 18697 280442Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----119099 280447Z /17
O 280332Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8409

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 18697

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP
SUBJECT: AQUINO CASE

REFS: A. MANILA 18692; B. MANILA 18681; C. STATE 283136

1. SUMMARY: PHILIPPINE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ENRILE DOES NOT BELIEVE MARCOS WILL CARRY OUT DEATH SENTENCE AGAINST AQUINO; NEITHER DOES HE BELIEVE PRESIDENT WILL LET AQUINO LEAVE COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. I TOOK OCCASION OF COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ENRILE EVENING NOVEMBER 26 TO RAISE AQUINO DEATH SENTENCE. STATING THAT MANY IN U.S., INCLUDING MANY IN CONGRESS, SAW AQUINO CASE AS POLITICAL RATHER THAN SUBVERSIVE, ANY CARRYING OUT OF DEATH SENTENCE WOULD BRING SERIOUS REACTION IN U.S. ADVERSELY AFFECTING OUR ABILITY TO WIN APPROVAL FOR U.S.- PHILIPPINE COOPERATION IN CONGRESS. I THEN ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS POSSIBILITY AQUINO MIGHT BE PARDONED AND PERMITTED TO LEAVE COUNTRY.

3. ENRILE SAID MARCOS "WOULD BE A FOOL" TO KILL AQUINO AND HE WAS CERTAIN DEATH SENTENCE WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT. HE WAS LESS CERTAIN AQUINO WOULD BE PERMITTED TO GO FREE OR TO LEAVE COUNTRY. HE MENTIONED THAT PRESIDENT HAD LETTER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 18697 280442Z

FROM INTERNATIONAL RESCUE LEAGUE OFFERING TO ARRANGE FOR

AQUINO'S ADMISSION TO U.S. MARCOS HAD MADE NO DECISION. SOME ADVISERS (PERHAPS INCLUDING ENRILE?) WERE ADVISING THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE THIS WAY OUT. OTHERS (PERHAPS MRS. MARCOS?) WERE STRONGLY OPPOSED.

4. ENRILE THEN GAVE ME LENGTHY REVIEW OF CASE, INCLUDING HIS OWN RELATIONSHIP WITH AQUINO. HE HAD BEEN LAWYER FOR AQUINO FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIEND. HE DID NOT PERSONALLY FEEL AQUINO WAS COMMUNIST ALTHOUGH HE HAD MADE POLITICAL ALLIANCE WITH THEM, A "SERIOUS MISTAKE ON HIS PART." ENRILE SAID HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT MEETING JUNE 21 BETWEEN MARCOS AND AQUINO WHICH HAD BEEN "CONCILIATORY." THEN, HE SAID, AQUINO RETURNED TO ATTACK ON MARCOS AND BENEFITS OF THIS MEETING WERE LOST.

5. I TOOK OCCASION, ALSO, TO STRESS TO ENRILE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING U.S. PHILIPPINE DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND REFERRED TO MY DESIRE TO REVIEW GENERAL SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT. ENRILE AGREED THIS WAS IMPORTANT AND SAID HE BELIEVES PRESIDENT WOULD APPRECIATE "FRANK TALK" AS LONG AS IT IS "FRIENDLY."

6. COMMENT: I WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AQUINO AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS CASES WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS. IN MEANTIME DEPARTMENT CAN, IF QUESTION IS RAISED, STATE, ON BASIS MY TALK WITH ENRILE BUT WITHOUT REFERRING TO HIM BY NAME, THAT WE HAVE RAISED OUR CONCERN OVER AQUINO SENTENCE AT HIGH LEVEL PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. I AM SURE ENRILE WILL REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO MARCOS.

7. REF C RECEIVED AFTER FOREGOING DRAFTED. TALK WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 18697 280442Z

ENRILE WILL HELP PAVE WAY FOR PRESIDENT. I NOW HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS ON DECEMBER 2 FOLLOWING MEETING WITH ADMIRAL WEISNER.

NEWSOM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, COURT DECISIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA18697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770439-0636
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771113/aaaaalaj.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 83b5be10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 MANILA 18692, 77 MANILA 18681, 77 STATE 283136
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 433938
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AQUINO CASE
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP, US, (AQUINO, BENIGNO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83b5be10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009